

The cover features a textured, reddish-orange background. In the upper left, there is a dark blue square containing the white text 'ADB'. The central and lower portions of the cover are dominated by dark silhouettes of people and interlocking gears. The silhouettes include a person in the center with arms outstretched, and another person to the right. In the foreground, several interlocking gears are visible, some overlapping the silhouettes. The overall composition suggests themes of industry, cooperation, and development.

ADB

ADB COOPERATION
WITH CIVIL SOCIETY
ANNUAL REPORT 2008

Asian Development Bank



ADB Cooperation with Civil Society

Annual Report 2008

Asian Development Bank

PART I: INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has substantially increased its collaboration with civil society organizations (CSOs) this millennium, recognizing them as vital partners in addressing the profound development challenges in the world's most populous region. Stimulated by the spread of information and communication technologies, civil society has blossomed in Asia and the Pacific. ADB engages with global, regional, national, and local CSOs undertaking advocacy or service delivery and working in a range of sectors, including water and sanitation, agriculture, irrigation, and transport. Apart from operational project-level collaboration, CSOs have also been joining policy dialogue and consultations on ADB's country strategies. This report highlights ADB's work with civil society, but is only a snapshot of the collaboration and interaction that takes place at ADB's headquarters in Manila, Philippines and through its 23 offices in its developing member countries (DMCs) across Asia and the Pacific.

In ADB's new long-term strategic framework 2008–2020 (Strategy 2020),¹ ADB commits to engage in partnerships with a more diverse group of institutions. Partnerships with nongovernment organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), and foundations are becoming more central to planning, financing, and implementing ADB operations. ADB is opening up to a new range of future partnership activities that can deliver aid more effectively, improve development results, and improve disaster and emergency assistance.

The *2008 ADB Cooperation with Civil Society Annual Report* details ADB's increasingly meaningful and collaborative engagement with civil society. The year saw more countries receiving loans that feature elements of civil society involvement and more technical assistance (TA) projects that include CSO participation. Lessons from such extensive collaboration reinforced ADB's commitment to partnership, one of the five drivers of change in ADB's Strategy 2020.

ADB's relationship with each of its member countries is documented in its country partnership strategy (CPS), and the process of developing these vital documents continued to involve close collaboration and consultation with civil society. In 2008, Cook Islands, Samoa, Timor-Leste, and Tuvalu all developed their CPSs.

In 2008, ADB reviewed a number of its policies and civil society played a meaningful role in the process. Civil society representatives made a particularly active contribution to ADB's Safeguard Policy Update (SPU); between January and April 2008, ADB consulted stakeholders, including CSOs, at 10 SPU events around the world. These workshops provided ADB's various stakeholders in government, the private sector, academe, affected people and civil society, as well as other multilateral financial institutions and development agencies an opportunity to clarify and comment on the consultation draft of the Safeguard Policy Statement.

Other highlights of 2008 include the NGO Lobby Day meetings which are an opportunity for NGOs to discuss projects and a range of topics with ADB staff, consultations with CSOs on land issues, ADB's 2008 Annual Meeting in Spain which again had a dedicated CSO agenda, work on ADB's drive against corruption, continuing partnerships with conservation organizations, publication of the *Civil Society Organization Sourcebook*,² and complimentary training for NGOs and ADB's civil society anchors, based across the organization and region.

ADB's medium-term work plan for ADB–government–civil society cooperation continues to guide ADB in its engagement with civil society. The work plan, which covers 2006–2008, is set within the context of the role and mandate of ADB's Regional and Sustainable Development Department, which supports all thematic and sector areas of ADB's operations. The work plan reaffirms ADB's commitment to continue integrating CSO knowledge and experience into its operations. The NGO and Civil Society Center (NGOC) in the department's Public Management, Governance, and Participation Division executes the work plan.

¹ www.adb.org/Strategy2020/

² ADB. 2008. *Civil Society Organization Sourcebook: A Staff Guide to Cooperation with Civil Society Organizations*. Manila. Available at www.adb.org/Documents/Books/CSO-Staff-Guide/default.asp

PART II: PUTTING THE WORK PLAN INTO ACTION

The work plan comprises three recommendations on how ADB, governments, and civil society can cooperate most effectively to reduce poverty in Asia and the Pacific. They are:

Supporting Quality of ADB Operations

ADB will continue to interact with civil society groups and invite their input into its projects and in country, subregional, sector, and thematic policies and strategies. ADB will explore new tools to help CSOs address the challenges presented by HIV/AIDS and corruption. Together with ADB's regional departments, the NGOC will seek opportunities to engage CSOs in ADB-assisted activities.

Conducting Training and Building Capacity

The NGOC will initiate workshops to enhance the capacity of ADB staff as they interact with civil society. Training courses will include consultation and participation approaches. In addition, ADB will develop tools for staff to enhance their understanding of the CSO context in DMCs, and how to carry out participatory approaches in projects.

Generating and Sharing Knowledge

ADB recognizes that an important ingredient in civil society engagement is nurturing good communication. The NGOC will seize opportunities to disseminate information on ADB–CSO engagement, and will use various ways to share knowledge on how CSOs can cooperate with ADB. Importantly, ADB will organize consultations and dialogue with CSOs on ADB projects as well as on the development and review of the institution's policies and strategies. In addition, partnerships with international civil society groups like the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) offer valuable forums for continued knowledge sharing.

Part II of this report discusses ADB interaction with CSOs as they relate to these three recommendations.

Supporting Quality of ADB Operations

CSOs add value to the success of sustainable development by introducing:

- **Innovation.** identifying new approaches and models for specific development activities, drawing upon their close knowledge of local communities
- **Accountability.** helping ensure that project components are implemented as envisaged and planned
- **Responsiveness.** encouraging project implementation that responds appropriately to local needs
- **Participation.** serving as bridges between project authorities and affected communities, and providing structures for citizen participation
- **Sustainability.** nurturing continuity in project work, especially when implementing agencies lack capacity or undergo staff changes

1. Civil Society Cooperation in Loans

ADB's most direct engagement with civil society is through its loans. In 2008, ADB approved 83 new loans. Of these, 64 (77%) included some element of civil society involvement, ranging from consultation to project design to implementation and monitoring and evaluation. Oftentimes, CSOs are assigned a specific component of an ADB-assisted initiative, including roles such as consultant, expert, and/or trainer. Of the 64 new loans involving CSOs in 2008, 10 were from Pakistan, followed closely by India with 9. In addition, the list includes the Cook Islands and Georgia, where civil society involvement in ADB-funded loans has taken place for the first time.

Civil society involvement is found across several sectors. The highest number of newly approved loans in 2008, 15, was in multi-sector,³ followed by 12 loans in the transport and communications sector. The energy sector continues to have high CSO involvement, with 10 new loans involving CSOs approved.

³ Multisector grants are generally urban, covering integrated urban infrastructure: water supply and sanitation, roads, and housing.

Figure 1. Loans with CSO Involvement, Approved in 2008, by Country

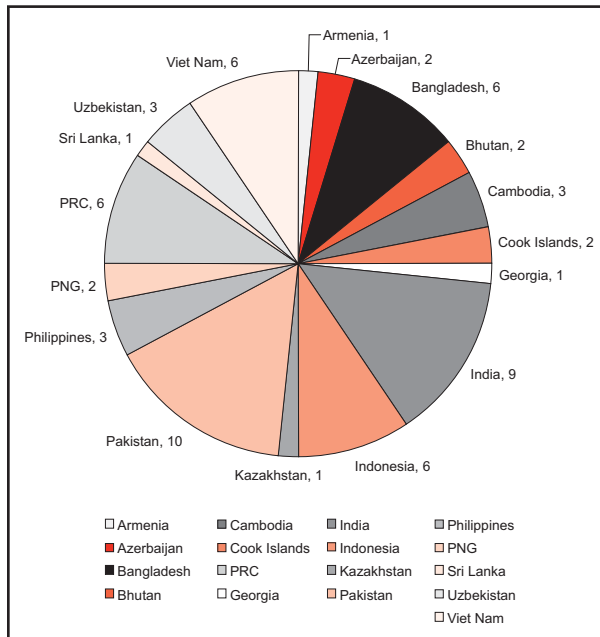
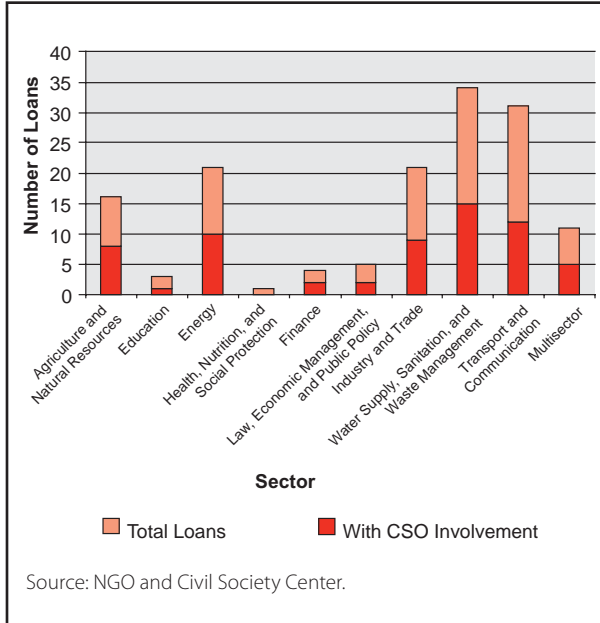


Figure 2. Loans with CSO involvement, Approved in 2008, by Sector



Examples of CSO Participation in ADB Loans

The following loans were ongoing during 2008:

Consulting Communities to Improve Sanitation in Indonesia

Public consultation is at the core of project design in the Community Water Services and Health Project (34152⁴) in Indonesia. The project's purpose is to provide sustainable access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation, and to improve the hygiene of low-income communities in rural and peri-urban areas. Stakeholder consultations and community-driven design mechanisms involving beneficiaries and CBOs were a significant part of the subproject selection process. Local communities used a participatory process to identify project investments. The participants developed community action plans and then received funds to implement them. Newly formed community implementation teams facilitated the community participation component. By the end of the year, more than 330 community implementation teams supported water supply and sanitation facilities in their villages in the provinces of Aceh, Bengkulu, Central Kalimantan, Jambi, Nias/North Sumatra, and West Kalimantan.

Building Capacity to Supply Water

In the Kyrgyz Republic, the Community-Based Infrastructure Service Project (31197) followed a sector lending approach and supported the government's objectives of decentralization, poverty reduction, and human development. The loan provided improved community-based infrastructure services and training programs to strengthen institutional capacity in rural areas. CBOs and other NGOs helped prepare socioeconomic surveys and organize community consultations and the NGO Central Asian Alliance on Water trained local communities on sanitation and hygiene issues.

Delivering Information to Improve Public Health

The Sanitation, Public Health, and Environment Improvement Project (28310) in Kiribati delivered successful public information programs and community activities in cooperation with women's organizations and NGOs. NGOs, women's organizations, churches, cooperatives, schools, and households, in cooperation with the Ministry of

⁴ All ADB projects are allotted a specific project number. Further detailed information on individual projects is available by entering the project number in the search box on ADB's website, www.adb.org.

Environment and Social Development, supported by two community development TA grants, delivered many successful public information programs and community activities. In particular, the promotion of rainwater tanks was very successful. The percentage of households using tanks increased from 23% in 1995 to 43% in 2005. The ministry also collaborated with the International Waters Program⁵ to successfully implement their solid waste management program on the island. Finally, communities monitored project activities in collaboration with project staff.

Continuing Education in Bangladesh

The Post Literacy and Continuing Education Project (31309) in Bangladesh aims to establish an effective, community-based post-literacy and continuing education program for adult students who have completed basic literacy courses. The program will help students become functionally literate and give them social and income-generating skills related to existing employment and income-generating opportunities.

Partner NGOs include Padakhep Manobik Unnayan Kendra (PMUK), WAVE Foundation, Friends in Village Development Bangladesh (FIVDB), Eco-Social Development Organization (ESDO), Dhaka Ahsania Mission, and others. These organizations have helped learners improve their basic literacy skills, and encouraged them to join post-literacy activities and understand their rights and responsibilities. The groups have also organized training programs to develop locally relevant skills based on a variety of issues, including the demand for goods and services in the local market, the opportunities for skills training in the area, and the interests of the participants.

Facilitating Road Development in India

ADB promotes inclusive economic growth in India through road development and has increasingly focused on the poorer states with weaker capacity to reduce interstate disparities. The Bihar State Highways Project (41127) will improve the transport efficiency of the state road network in one of the poorest states in India. The project contributes to the expansion of economic opportunities, as the immense potential of agriculture will remain untapped until the completion of supporting infrastructure.

Indian civil society groups, including Pragati and Study Point Samiti, helped educate project affected persons (PAPs) on their right to entitlements and obligations during their resettlement in accordance with ADB safeguard policies. The groups organized a training program and provided support and information to PAPs in the crucial area of reestablishing livelihoods. CSOs also assisted the PAPs in relocation and rehabilitation, including counseling activities, and coordination with local authorities. In addition, civil society groups organized HIV/AIDS and human trafficking awareness campaigns in the project areas.

Mobilizing Communities for Socioeconomic Infrastructure

The Decentralized Rural Infrastructure and Livelihood Project (30232) in Nepal invests in small, community-based socioeconomic infrastructure and provides jobs, thus empowering rural communities for development. The project is improving the rural transport network and enhancing the livelihoods of communities in 18 districts, including 14 districts in the western, midwestern, and far western regions that are among the poorest in the country.

NGOs, including the Integrated Development Society and other local organizations, helped implement social development and community mobilization activities during various stages of the project. Ten district-level NGOs helped strengthen labor groups by organizing beneficiary awareness campaigns at construction sites, informing them about their rights, duties, and opportunities as outlined in the International Labour Organization's Core Labor Standards.

Mitigating River Erosion

The Jamuna Meghna River Erosion Mitigation Project (34038) in Bangladesh establishes cost-effective and sustainable mitigation measures for riverbank erosion to protect the livelihoods of 2 million people living in the target area of two flood protection and irrigation schemes. Developed with ADB assistance the mitigation measures address the progressive erosion caused by the Jamuna and Meghna rivers. The Bangladeshi NGO, Development Organization of the Rural Poor (DORP), implemented the resettlement plan of the mitigation measures. DORP carried out a public information campaign and facilitated group discussions on land acquisition and

⁵ www.eli.org/Program_Areas/international_water.cfm

entitlements for compensation. Furthermore, DORP assisted with the execution of the resettlement action plan and participated on the grievance redressing mechanism.

In addition to the loans already in progress described above, the following loans are a sample of those approved in 2008.

Assisting Punjab Meet its Millennium Development Goals

Punjab is the most populous province of Pakistan and has the largest provincial economic base in the country. While the province has achieved robust economic growth in recent years, it has lagged in attaining the following Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): reduction of the infant mortality rate (MDG4) and decreasing the maternal mortality ratio (MDG5). More serious efforts are needed to attain these two essential health MDGs. The loan, Punjab Millennium Development Goals Program (Subprogram 1, 41641), will help the government of Punjab improve the daily management of health service delivery by reducing delays in the procurement of essential drugs. The health sector reforms will help institutionalize contracting of health services to NGOs who will play a bigger role in improving the health of Punjabis, and improve the existing performance monitoring and evaluation systems.

Designing Energy Solutions in the People's Republic of China

In the People's Republic of China (PRC), civil society representatives contributed to the design of the Dagushan Hydropower Project (39652) by their participation from the feasibility study stage. CSOs participated with more than 4,400 representatives of local government agencies and project-affected people during the feasibility study, environmental impact assessment, and land acquisition planning phase of the project design. The participants discussed project alternatives, environmental concerns, land acquisition issues, and the economic development potential of the project. Local residents overwhelmingly supported the program as it will improve their access to more reliable and affordable electricity and they will enjoy other social benefits. Direct project benefits include hiring and training local workers for project construction, allowing access to project facilities (e.g., medical emergency facilities, transportation, and electricity supply), supporting purchases of local supplies and services from the local communities, and providing a more reliable electricity supply to local towns after project

completion. The consultation processes also enabled local stakeholders to express their concerns, including public safety, during the construction period.

Monitoring Hydropower Development

The design of the Song Bung 4 Hydropower Project (36352) in Viet Nam designates an NGO to monitor the project as an independent third party. Activities include monitoring (i) the participatory process, mechanisms, and measures used during the project design; (ii) disclosure of the updated and detailed plans to affected persons; (iii) gender issues; (iv) the adequacy of the measures taken to address ethnic minority concerns; (v) the appropriateness of various entitlements, programs, activities, and methods of delivery for vulnerable households and groups; (vi) how information is distributed; and (vii) types of grievances reported, the effectiveness of the grievance resolution mechanism, and if and how they are resolved. An experienced NGO may also implement training on HIV/AIDS and awareness of human trafficking issues.

Distributing Emergency Food Aid

The local NGO Buddhism for Development monitored the distribution of food aid to over 68,000 of Cambodia's poorest families in October and November 2008. The program, responding to the Cambodia food crisis, was supported by a loan and grant from the Emergency Food Assistance Project (42186) to meet unexpected high expenditures for safety net programs for the poor and vulnerable affected by higher food, fuel, and agricultural input prices. The project targeted the poorest 20% of families in 200 selected communes around the Tonle Sap Lake.

Collecting Gender Data for Road Design

During program preparations of the Road Network Development Program - Project 2 (39176) in Azerbaijan, various stakeholders, including local communities, road users, civil society, representatives of local and central government, the private sector, and external aid agencies, participated in discussions about the proposed road project. Meetings, interviews, surveys, group discussions, and written communications, which drew participation from over 3,000 people, ensured comprehensive consultations about the project's design. The Azerbaijan Women and Development Center, one of the leading NGOs in the country, gathered gender-disaggregated data via household surveys, review of secondary data, and qualitative

data. They then used the information to create a gender analysis for the project's design.

Ensuring Fair and Transparent Judicial Selection

Under the Governance in Justice Sector Reform Program (41380) in the Philippines, NGOs such as Supreme Court Appointments Watch will help ensure that the selection of judges and justices is fair and transparent, and free from undue political influence. NGOs will also assist in holding justice sector institutions accountable for their actions and raising public confidence in justice sector institutions and the rule of law. The project will enhance justice sector integrity through the development and enforcement of codes of conduct. Other mechanisms the project will employ include the participation of civil society in monitoring justice sector performance and integrity, conducting an integrity development review, ensuring transparency in the judicial selection and appointment process, and supporting the wide and timely dissemination of judicial decisions.

Reducing the Impacts of Disasters

The objective of the Emergency Disaster Damage Rehabilitation Project (41657) in Bangladesh is to contribute to sustainable economic growth by minimizing the devastating impact of severe floods and cyclones, and reducing future risk from similar events. The project will focus on priority areas identified through consultation with the government, private sector, NGOs, and other CSOs. Participation by beneficiaries including the poor, NGOs and local government institutions in subproject identification, implementation, operation, and maintenance of improved infrastructure will continue throughout the project implementation.

Revitalizing Rural Services in Pakistan

Economic growth in Sindh in recent decades has been characterized by large fluctuations. As a consequence, long-term growth has been moderate, which has had several implications. The Sindh Growth and Rural Revitalization Program (Subprogram 1 - 41545) will promote greater private sector participation across the Sindh economy, more efficient public expenditure management, and increased investment and service delivery in rural areas. In particular, it aims to improve social service delivery, which is vital for building up human

capital and improving the welfare of rural people. Revitalizing the rural economy that includes creating partnerships with NGOs and the private sector to deliver essential rural services has been prioritized.

2. Civil Society in Technical Assistance Projects

Civil Society Cooperation in Technical Assistance Projects

In 2008, ADB approved 197 technical assistance (TA) projects, of which 73 (37%) included civil society involvement, an increase from 2007, when only 31% of the newly approved TA projects involved civil society. The countries with the highest number of TA projects are India, Viet Nam, and the Philippines with 11, 10, and 9 projects respectively. Altogether, 21 countries involve civil society in ADB-financed TA projects.

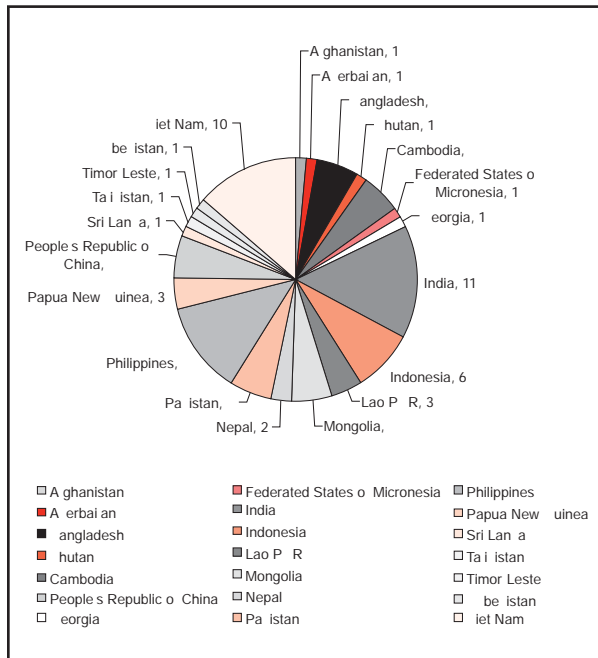
As with newly approved loans, the highest number of TA projects (15) with CSO involvement is in multisector and transportation and communication sector projects. TA projects focusing on water supply, sanitation, and waste management, and agriculture and natural resources also involved CSOs frequently, with 11 and 10 TA projects in each sector.

Following are examples of ongoing TA projects. Some initiatives are limited to a single country, but others are regional and involve multiple countries.

Monitoring Resettlement Impacts

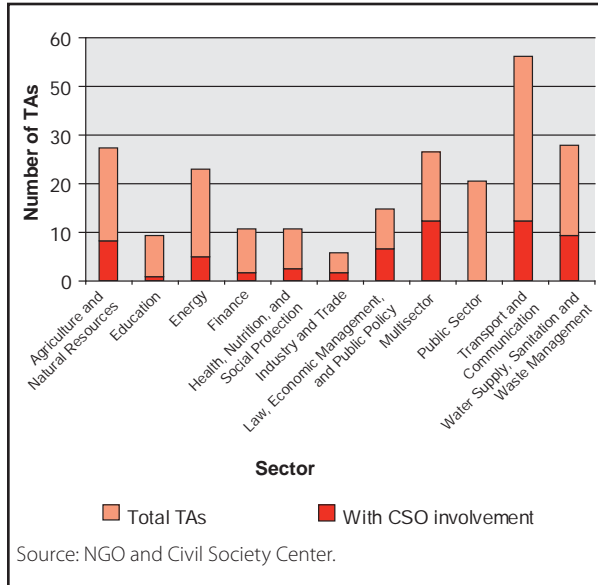
Following an investigation of the ADB-supported Southern Transport Development Project (38647) in Sri Lanka, ADB's Compliance Review Panel recommended that the ADB project management implement several changes to bring the project back into compliance. Measures include helping establish well-staffed monitoring of resettlement activities by an independent institution and forwarding concerns of the affected persons to the Road Development Authority for urgent action. Through support for technical assistance, ADB engaged an independent institution to review the progress of resettlement activities and report to the Road Development Authority, where necessary, for immediate corrective action. A national NGO, the Center for Poverty Analysis, monitored the progress of the Southern Transport Development Project.

Figure 3. Number of Technical Assistance Initiatives with CSO Involvement, by Country



Society Participation in Poverty Reduction (42124), will help reduce rural poverty in the PRC. In light of global experience, the government increasingly recognizes the largely untapped potential of civil society actors—including NGOs and nascent volunteerism and corporate social responsibility—as partners in state-supported poverty work. Developing new models and mechanisms for mobilizing civil society in poverty programs will also be central to achieving national goals of people-centered development toward a “harmonious society.” The project will bring together NGOs and other civil society actors within more effective, responsive, targeted, and sustainable poverty reduction programs across the country. The project outcome will be formulation and demonstration of replicable models and mechanisms for civil society participation in national poverty reduction programs. In particular, the project embeds the results of ADB assistance to explore new ways of mainstreaming NGOs into village poverty alleviation and development planning, PRC’s flagship grassroots poverty program.

Figure 4. Technical Assistance Initiatives with CSO Involvement, Approved in 2008, by Sector



Preparing the Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Management Project

Flooding is a perennial problem in Assam, India, causing significant economic damage each year. The state’s flood-prone area amounts to 3.1 million hectares (ha), or some 40% of Assam’s total geographical area. Thus, effective flood management is crucial to the state’s economic performance. The TA project, Preparing the North Eastern Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Management Project (38412), assists the state government in developing and implementing a comprehensive, cost-effective, and affordable flood and river erosion management strategy. The project aims to protect the areas of vital socioeconomic and national interests such as productive urban and rural centers, tea plantations, and oil refineries through effective structural and nonstructural flood protection and river training activities.

During project preparation stage, ADB organized a series of consultations, through workshops and individual meetings, with local NGOs on the design and implementation arrangements of the project. Several NGOs, including the Indian Confederation of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples – North East Zone and River Basin Friends, provided input in determining the project’s social and environmental impacts.

Developing New Models for Civil Society Participation

The lack of a supportive institutional environment along with workable mechanisms has limited the extent and efficacy of civil society’s role in reducing poverty in the PRC. The TA, New Models for Civil

Box 1: Strengthening Civil Society Participation in the Pacific

The regional technical assistance project, Pilot Strengthening of Civil Society Participation in Development in the Pacific (38638), built on and complemented ongoing and planned assistance to civil society in the Pacific from ADB and other external funding agencies. It strengthened CSO understanding of development policy. CSOs directly engaged with their governments and external funding agencies in the design, formulation, and implementation of ADB's country strategies, programs, and projects as an example to all development programs. ADB and the Pacific Islands Association of NGOs collaborated to achieve project objectives.

Outcomes through this project included

- a more developmentally aware, less factionalized, and more effective civil society as CSOs learn to understand and influence the formulation, implementation, and evaluation of government and external funding agency policies; the project ensured that development plans were constituent-directed and publicly accountable;
- establishment of the means and best practices for civil society participation in development;
- actual increased civil society participation in advocacy, planning, policy development, and the delivery of some services, in the case of ADB-financed programs;
- a resulting heightened demand by civil society for improved public services and responsive markets;
- improved collaboration among the governments of Pacific DMCs, external funding agencies, and CSOs; and
- greater acceptance of the legitimacy of civil society in development.

Promoting Effective Water Management Policies and Practices

The regional TA project, Promoting Effective Water Management Policies and Practices – Phase V (38539), promotes effective water management policies and practices at the regional, subregional, and country levels. Located in the Southern Highlands Province of Papua New Guinea, Lake

Kutubu is Papua New Guinea's highest freshwater lake and is expected to be greatly affected by upcoming industrial developments that include a gas pipeline from the Southern Highlands to Queensland and a road from the highlands to the coast passing close to Lake Kutubu.

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Pacific helped prepare biological and socioeconomic information on the Lake Kutubu catchment for developing an integrated catchment management plan. WWF helped strengthen the capacity of national and local institutions to manage the catchment. The project will protect biological diversity and ecological processes while promoting the sustainable management of natural resources supported by a properly implemented catchment management policy.

Sharing Experiences Among Civil Society Organizations and Local Media on Pro-Poor Budgeting

The TA project Pro-Poor Planning and Budgeting (39063) works to improve access of the poor to quality social services and infrastructure in Indonesia through support for initiatives to operationalize local poverty reduction strategies and link these strategies to a pro-poor and participatory budget process. The TA project has focused on building capacity for pro-poor planning and budgeting among local government officials, members of district representative assemblies, and representatives of local CSOs. A 2-day workshop held in May 2008 as part of this assistance offered an opportunity to share lessons and experiences in planning and budgeting to reduce poverty and strengthen the understanding of practices of CSOs and local media that advance pro-poor planning at the district level.

Integrating Concerns of Trafficking and Migration

The regional TA initiative Integrating Human Trafficking and Safe Migration Concerns for Women and Children into Regional Cooperation (40320) will enhance mainstreaming of anti-trafficking and safe migration concerns within the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) and South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) and strengthen regional policy dialogue and partnerships on these topics in the GMS and South Asia. In the GMS, various high-level NGO staff and government officials will participate in targeted regional and local training. NGOs are valuable partners in regionwide networks that address trafficking and safe migration in these regions.

Supporting the Energy for All Initiative

ADB organized the regional workshop Financing Village-Level Energy for Development in Asia Pacific (40629) in Manila on 10–11 April 2008. The forum was a knowledge-sharing event focusing on the methodologies and options available for financing and implementing sustainable energy supply initiatives, including microfinance and carbon finance initiatives. The Foundation for Development Cooperation and Global Village Energy Program International, two international NGOs, co-hosted the workshop with ADB. The meeting assembled key decision makers and practitioners in Asia and the Pacific who are expanding access in developing countries to clean, renewable and lower cost forms of energy to the village level.

Establishing Regional Knowledge Hubs

The regional TA project, Establishment of Regional Knowledge Hubs (39201), supports regional development by creating knowledge hubs in selected DMCs as centers of excellence. The knowledge centers will provide decision makers and the development community in Asia and the Pacific with up-to-date knowledge products and services tailored to client or regional needs. One goal of the project is to establish centers of excellence with particular emphasis on a partnership approach involving governments, private sector, NGOs, academic institutions, and other donor agencies. In India, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) is one of the organizations that serves as a knowledge hub for information on clean energy. TERI is an internationally recognized organization which works closely with several multilateral organizations, national governments, corporate organizations, NGOs, and academia around the world. As of now, it has over 900 organizations as sponsors and around 200 organizations as partners from 43 countries.

In addition to the TA projects already in progress described above, the following are a sample of those approved in 2008. Some are national level and others take place in multiple countries.

Building Capacity for Housing Microfinance

In the Philippines, the technical assistance, Capacity Building for Housing Microfinance (37704), will strengthen systems in the Development Bank of the Philippines, Housing and Urban Development

Coordinating Council, local government units, and microfinance institutions to enable the formulation of housing projects and financing appropriate to the needs of the poor. It will involve close consultation with representatives of communities likely to benefit from the project. The project is expected to engage NGOs assisting these communities particularly in promoting sustainable mechanisms for effective community participation. Through participatory approaches, NGOs will facilitate the process of the beneficiaries preparing community action plans.

Developing Benefit-Sharing Mechanisms in Viet Nam

The TA project, Developing Benefit Sharing Mechanisms for People Adversely Affected by Power Generation Project (39379), supports the Government of Viet Nam in preparing guidelines for benefit-sharing mechanisms for people adversely affected by power generation projects. It will help the government prepare a pilot-tested policy framework, as an initial step in developing a national policy for benefit-sharing mechanisms for improving the well-being of the people affected by power projects. The mechanisms will allow the allocation of a certain percentage of revenue from power generation projects. These will mitigate the long-term adverse social impacts of such projects and will help the project-affected people improve their livelihoods in a sustainable manner. The benefit sharing funds will be channeled from the power generation projects to independent institutions, such as possibly collaborating with local and international CSOs, including representatives of project-affected communities.

Supporting Power Sector Development

The Power Sector Development Project (41504) in Papua New Guinea will form a steering committee to help ensure adequate cooperation from local government bodies, governments, and NGOs active in the power sector. In consultation with local NGOs, the project will also identify key project stakeholders to examine their interests and views in relation to the project. This is a new role for NGOs in Papua New Guinea, but one that will link consumers with producers more closely.

Reforming the Khadi⁶ and Village Industry Subsector

India's rural nonfarm sector is considered a major source of income for rural communities and holds the key to faster economic development of the

⁶ *Khadi* is Indian handspun and hand-woven cloth.

country. The khadi and village industries sector is an integral and significant subsector of the nonfarm sector as it holds significant employment potential for women. Thus, the TA Capacity Building for Reforming the Khadi and Village Industry Subsector (42151) will benefit mostly poor rural women. During program implementation, gender and NGO experts will use a participatory approach in their needs assessments and information dissemination activities. They will focus on capacity development initiatives especially for women and disadvantaged beneficiaries. As NGOs often operate *khadj* production centers, the NGOs will also benefit as these centers become more productive and sustainable as a result of the reforms to the subsector.

Planning the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Transport Corridor

Design of the CAREC program (42052) Transport Corridor III (Dushanbe–Uzbekistan Border Road) will include participatory exercises with a range of development actors—community members and local groups, NGOs, line agencies involved in road subsector development, and businesses. Participatory tools such as focus group discussions, participatory workshops, and community-level rapid assessment will ensure that local concerns and priorities are included in the design stage of the road project.

Increasing Capacity for Flood Management

The Pyanj River poses significant flood and erosion risks to Afghanistan and Tajikistan. The Pyanj River Basin Flood Management Project (41601) will improve water resource management in the Pyanj River Basin, and will reduce the negative impacts from floods and bank erosion. The outcome of this TA project will be improved knowledge, increased capacity, and strengthened institutions for planning and managing the Pyanj River Basin with a focus on flood management. Ongoing activities of the governments, development partners, and NGOs in the basin will be coordinated. It will also directly support initial studies that address critical data gaps, focusing on hydrology, the hydrometeorology network, river morphology, and social and economic baseline data. NGOs will be recruited to assist with necessary community engagement and for other technical studies and services under the TA project.

Enhancing Engagement with Pacific Developing Member Countries

The TA Enhancing Engagement with Pacific DMCs (41658) will help generate economic growth in Samoa, Solomon Islands, and Tonga through (i) enhanced relationships between ADB and the participating governments, (ii) improved development partner coordination, and (iii) improved ADB country portfolio performance. The project is expected to enhance ADB relations with the governments, the private sector, and NGOs in the region. It will support the provision of additional resources and capacity for development partner coordination, and potentially harmonization, with a focus on facilitating government implementation of national development strategies—in Samoa, Solomon Islands, and Tonga—for 3 years.

Building More Gender-Responsive Decentralized Governance

The Gender-Responsive Decentralized Governance in Asia project (40314) will create a more transparent, gender-equitable, and socially inclusive government at the decentralized level in Cambodia, Indonesia, and Nepal. The project helps disseminate practical lessons for use by ADB staff, governments, CSOs, and funding agencies to improve the gender responsiveness in policy, planning, budgeting, and project design. The project will identify practices for greater representation and participation by women in decentralized governance. It will also support women's NGOs as they train participating women to take part in sector policy dialogue.

3. Civil Society Cooperation in Country Programming

ADB and each of its DMCs jointly prepare a country partnership strategy (CPS) every 5 years to define and guide their collaborative development initiatives in the country. The CPS is based on an analysis of the country's development priorities and specifies key approaches to remove constraints on country development, and explicitly states the strategy's objectives. ADB partnerships with CSOs, including NGOs, community-based organizations, and foundations, will become central to planning, financing, and implementing ADB operations as the CPS is executed. Therefore, ADB invites a broad

range of CSOs to join in active, open dialogues and consultations with ADB and government officials during the CPS design process.

The consultation process for the development of CPSs in India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka all began in 2007 but continued into or through 2008. The CPSs for Cook Islands, Samoa, and Tuvalu were all approved in 2008 and Timor-Leste also began its consultations in 2008. ADB engaged with civil society through formal consultations in each country during the process.

In March 2008, ADB organized a mid-term review of the 2005–2009 Nepal CPS to assess the realities on the ground and gather the perceptions of the strategy’s underlying assumptions from local stakeholders, particularly in light of political changes since the strategy was formulated. The review included regional consultations in all five of Nepal’s target regions and a meeting with representatives of civil society, including freed bonded laborers, members of the *dalit*⁷ community and other marginalized groups, women’s groups, and NGOs. The consultations also enabled ADB to inform stakeholders on the strategy’s progress and get their views on its continued relevance in the new political context. The discussions provided a fresh outlook to complement the political and intellectual discussions which too often focus in the capital, Kathmandu. According to participants, most development needs identified during the 2003 regional consultations and encompassed in ADB priorities through the four strategic pillars (broad based and inclusive high economic growth, inclusive social development, governance and capacity building, and climate change and environment sustainability) adopted by the previous CPS were still valid. The participants also reiterated that with the right approach, including the participation of local people, development is possible even under difficult conditions.

The consultations in Pakistan yielded valuable feedback, which is reflected in the focal areas of the CPS. Governance; financial management; lack of coordination among local government departments; the need for improvements in planning, budgeting, and monitoring systems, and low operation and maintenance budgets figured centrally in the consultations. The consultations confirmed that ADB is best known in Pakistan for its contributions to infrastructure development, particularly in the transport, power, and irrigation

Box 2: Country Partnership Strategy Development in Sri Lanka

ADB and the Government of Sri Lanka have forged a new CPS 2009–2011 designed to help improve the investment climate, unplug infrastructure bottlenecks, and ensure all segments of society benefit from the nation’s solid economic growth. During the development of the CPS, the Sri Lanka Resident Mission successfully piloted a new consultation and participation strategy especially for the CPS process which they began in 2007. The new strategy requires that a multisector team, instead of an individual, from the Sri Lanka office manage and participate in the CPS consultations. Based on its success, ADB hopes to replicate this model in other countries.

ADB will also ensure that its interventions are conflict-sensitive, with strong emphasis on transparency and full and active consultation among all stakeholders. The strategy supports the government’s 10-year development framework that targets inclusive economic growth through improved infrastructure, increased private sector investment, and measures to boost the country’s competitiveness.

sectors. Stakeholders had several recommendations to improve performance in infrastructure projects, including need-based identification and improved design of projects; pro-poor projects, like farm-to-market roads; mass transit facilities; modern intercity and cross-country railway systems; and alternate energy including solar systems in remote areas and windmills in the coastal areas. Additional recommendations included the need to focus attention to gender concerns.

Even though dialogue with partners in Timor-Leste began in 2008, the dialogue with CSOs and other stakeholders continues into 2009. Development of Timor-Leste’s CPS includes informal and formal dialogues with CSOs in the country. The government is aware that its limited capacity means that it cannot address all development issues in the new nation, and likewise donors understand that they cannot expect government alone to achieve development targets. They see NGOs as essential for helping bridge these capacity gaps. The NGOs support the four proposed areas of ADB–Timor-

⁷ *Dalit* is a self-designation for a group of people traditionally regarded as untouchables (outcastes) or of low caste.

Least engagement, infrastructure, public sector capacity development, private sector development, and regional cooperation. They also advocate the importance of development efforts aimed in both the rural and urban areas of the country.

In preparation for the Mongolia CPS, ADB hired the Asia Foundation, an international NGO working in Mongolia, to prepare sector risk assessments and risk management plans in the education and urban infrastructure sectors in Mongolia. These assessments and plans lay the foundation for complementary work to reduce corruption in projects that ADB intends to support.

As the CPS process continues each year in different countries, it will fully involve government and nongovernment stakeholders to ensure broad commitment to, and ownership of, the CPS. Furthermore, the CPS consultation should be in line with and should complement the consultation process of the national poverty reduction strategy and the national development plan. NGOs often critically look at their government's development plan and see the gaps that they think ADB could fill. The participatory approach will help formulate a better and more relevant strategy and ensure greater participation and commitment of stakeholders in the implementation process.

Beyond ADB's consultation related to country partnership strategies, loans, or technical assistance, country level coordination and less formal collaboration are important instruments for cooperation with civil society. The Bangladesh Resident Mission has established regular links with NGOs in the country to share the country program and other issues of common interest. These meaningful cooperation strategies add value to all parties on a range of levels.

In addition to occasional one-on-one meetings as requested by NGOs, ADB's PRC Resident Mission has hosted regular informal roundtables, which serve as a forum for information exchange and mutual familiarization, and for seeking NGO feedback/views on development issues and ADB's role in the PRC. In 2008, roundtables in the PRC were merged with three events: the July Beijing "sister launch" of NGOC book *From the Ground Up* and a Chinese-language extract monograph, the September Final Policy Forum, and the November workshop to discuss the draft final report from ADB's subproject on government outsourcing to NGOs.

4. Cofinancing Funds Supporting Civil Society Engagement and Participation

Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction

The Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR) is an untied grant facility established by the Government of Japan and ADB in May 2000. From an initial contribution of \$90 million, the fund now stands at \$360.4 million, with a net uncommitted balance of \$126.7 million. JFPR assists ADB clients provide direct relief to the poorest and most vulnerable segments of society while building up their capacities for self-help and income generation.

The JFPR is a tool for local communities and CSOs, including NGOs, to actively participate in development. The partnerships are forged at two stages:

- **Project design**—The community group or NGO may collaborate with the ADB task team currently managing an existing and related ADB-financed project in conceptualizing and designing the proposed grant. However, only ADB staff can officially submit the JFPR applications. Civil society groups are advised to establish contacts with the country teams directly or through the NGO liaison officers and/or civil society specialists in ADB field offices.
- **Project implementation and execution**—The JFPR grants may be executed by recipient governments (central or local) or by CSOs. Alternatively, the executing agency may procure the services of CSOs in implementing specific grant activities.

As of the end of 2008, ADB had approved a total of 116 grant proposals (with a total value of \$300.3 million), which included a total of 13 new projects approved in 2008, worth \$34 million. Of the 13 new projects in 2008, NGOs are playing a large role in five of them, as described below.

Community-Based Early Childhood Care and Development

The Community-Based Early Childhood Care and Development Project (41051) aims to assist the Government of Viet Nam to identify an integrated early childhood care and development model focusing on children under 3 years, with a community and poverty targeted focus for selected

ethnic minority groups and migrant workers. In conjunction with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and Save the Children Federation, the project will improve the health, nutritional status, and cognitive and social development of children in Viet Nam.

UNICEF has developed extensive advocacy material on early childhood education and development on which the project will build. The Save the Children Federation will help in training promoters of early childhood care and development, in cooperation with the provincial departments of health and education.

Supporting Resettlement in Viet Nam

The Livelihood Improvement of Vulnerable Ethnic Minority Communities Affected by the Song Bung 4 Hydropower Project (36352) in Quang Nam Province project improves the living standards and reduces the prevalence of poverty of the people who are affected by the construction of the hydropower project. Project activities include adapting the relocated people to their new natural and social environment, developing land use and agricultural practices, and increasing the capacity of the ethnic minority resettled people through a participatory approach to enable them to take a key role in their own livelihood development. CHF,⁸ a Canadian NGO operating in Viet Nam, will provide resettlement guidance, oversee the compensation and grievance management components, and support the development of sustainable livelihoods options after resettlement.

Improving Water Resources for Nomadic Families in Mongolia

JFPR has extended a grant for \$2 million for the Water Point and Extension Station Establishment for Poor Herding Families project (41660), which will be overseen by ADB and executed by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture with the cooperation of the NGO Voluntary Services Overseas Mongolia. More than half the population in Ovorkhangay depends on herding for daily living and this project will help establish or rehabilitate 60 water points in 10 districts over 3 years. The resources will be managed by 60 herd-management groups that will receive technical and legal support in developing and overseeing pasture and well management plans. Nomadic herding families, who rotate their mixed

⁸ Formerly known as Canadian Hunger Foundation.

Box 3: Community Participation in Flood Management

The 3-and-a-half year Community Participation in Flood Management Project (40046) aims at developing capacity to anticipate, protect against, prepare for, and cope with floods and other disasters in about 130 flood-prone villages by implementing two components: Participatory Disaster Preparedness and Silviculture⁹ Flood Protection (40046) in Tajikistan. The Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED), an international NGO, is leading the implementation of the project in partnership with the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, Ghamakhori, CAMP Kuhiston, and the Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia. The project will enable this group of NGOs to develop an overall common package for disaster risk management at the community level which they will then install, test, and adapt. After 3 years of implementation, this system should be ready for adaptive replication nationally and in other countries with similar concerns.

Capacity building is a common thread throughout this grant. NGOs will strengthen the capacity of villages to organize themselves to address risk before, during, and after possible disasters. On the government side, officers will understand the capacity of villagers, NGOs, and local and national governments. More frequent interactions among these players will build trust and increase clarity about the responsibilities for disaster risk management.

⁹ Silviculture is the art and science of controlling the establishment, growth, composition, health, and quality of forests to meet diverse needs and values of the many landowners, societies, and cultures (Wikipedia).

herds across remote pastures, account for more than half the rural population of the country.

The new and rehabilitated water points are expected to increase land available for grazing by 168,000 hectares, benefiting 900 nomadic herding families. The project will also support improved livestock production and alternative livelihoods

through one-stop agricultural and social service extension centers expected to serve 100 nomadic herding groups and help them raise their income by at least 15% over the life of the project.

Improving Access to Quality Basic Education for Children with Special Needs

This project (40359) in the Kyrgyz Republic, approved in 2007 by JFPR but still ongoing, addresses the educational requirements of children with special needs, bringing them into mainstream activities, and therefore making them more active members of society. The three components of the grant are supporting the policy, legal, and institutional frameworks; building capacity and raising public awareness; and supporting the physical infrastructure, furnishings, and equipment of educational facilities serving children with special needs. Save the Children Alliance is assisting with the second, to promote participatory development of stakeholders and communities, and raising awareness of communities on the rights and privileges of children with special needs.

Water Pilot and Demonstration Activities

ADB's pilot demonstration activities (PDAs), introduced in 2002, provide opportunities for testing and improving innovative ideas, technology, and methodologies on a small scale in the water sector. PDAs are short-term activities designed to test and validate new and innovative approaches, methodologies, and strategies for improved water resources management and water services delivery, as well as sector policy development and sector reform. Since 2002, PDAs have been financed under ADB's Cooperation Fund for the Water Sector, a multi-agency facility that promotes effective water management policies and practices in Asia and the Pacific. ADB's Water Financing Partnership Facility¹⁰ has also been supporting PDAs since its establishment in 2006. The facility mobilizes additional financial and knowledge resources from financing partners to support the implementation of ADB's Water Financing Program 2006–2010, which aims to deliver substantial investment, reform, and capacity development in rural and urban water services, and basin water management. CSOs are executing the following PDAs:

Developing Appropriate Sanitation Solutions for Peri-Urban Areas

This PDA seeks to call the attention of government to the expected worsening of sanitation issues as a result of increased water supply. The objective is to develop a sanitation model for peri-urban areas of Viet Nam, applicable to other parts of Southeast Asia based on a combination of research and surveys, along with the implementation of one package treatment plant, through a bottom-up approach in Kieu Ky commune. Specifically, the PDA aims to (i) select appropriate domestic wastewater collection and treatment systems, (ii) select appropriate wastewater collection and treatment systems for craft making villages, (iii) implement a pilot package wastewater treatment plant. The project is being implemented by the NGO EAST Viet Nam, a French NGO collaborating with the Government of Viet Nam.

Demonstrating the Value of Greater Women's Involvement

The PDA Greater Women's Involvement in Implementing Arsenic Mitigation Measures in Rural Areas in Bangladesh demonstrates how greater female involvement in specific activities in water supply improvement such as water source identification and implementing arsenic mitigation measures, including evaluation of technology options, could improve sustainability of water supply delivery. The implementing NGO, the Environment and Population Research Centre, also aims to enhance the livelihood opportunities of the local population in the specified subproject areas of the Southwest Area Integrated Water Resources Planning and Management Project by improving health through the reduction of waterborne- and arsenic-related diseases. The project will assess the roles that women play in managing water for various domestic uses and how they have been involved in making decisions about how water supply interventions should be designed and implemented, and illustrate the advantages of getting women involved in decision making. Finally, the project will demonstrate the mechanisms of training and promoting a Water Safety Plan by women groups among women users for drinking safe water.

¹⁰ www.adb.org/water/WFPF/about.asp

Box 4: Demonstrating the Application of the Vetiver¹¹ System

The objective of the PDA Applying Vetiver System for Slope Stabilization and Erosion Control in Citarum Riparian Community Groups is to demonstrate the use of the vetiver system in the Citarum River, Indonesia. The implementing NGOs, the Ekoturin Foundation and Yayasan Ekoturisme Indonesia, will raise awareness of stakeholders, particularly at the community level, on the effectiveness of this system in water, soil, and natural resources conservation; soil and water erosion control; river basin management; sustainable agriculture; slope stabilization; and disaster mitigation.

Specifically, the PDA will (i) introduce and raise awareness on the effectiveness of vetiver systems; (ii) provide hands-on training for key stakeholders on vetiver characteristics, vetiver planting, propagation, maintenance and management, and interaction with farmers' groups in other regions of Indonesia who have successfully converted arid mountain slopes into flourishing vegetable gardens; (iii) establish pilot projects with key stakeholders in some steeper basin regions and empower local NGOs and key stakeholders to successfully replicate and/or extend vetiver system training and technologies to other farmers groups in the Citarum River basin; (iv) initiate sustainable upland organic farming systems for food security and eventual economic development; and (v) develop a core group from the stakeholders and NGOs as vetiver leaders to establish vetiver network to disseminate vetiver systems technology throughout the whole Citarum River basin.

¹¹ Vetiver is a perennial grass of the Poaceae family, native to India, whose roots grow almost exclusively downward, making it an excellent stabilizing hedge for stream banks, terraces, and rice paddies (Wikipedia).

Demonstrating the Compensation Mechanism for Watershed Protection Services

This PDA, Using Compensation Mechanism for Watershed Protection Services in Citarum, is being implemented by the NGO Center (NGOC) for Land and Water Resources Management (Lembaga Penelitian, Pendidikan, dan Penerangan Ekonomi dan Sosial or LP3ES). Its objectives are to (i) support

the development of compensation mechanisms for watershed services and improved livelihoods in the catchment areas of Citarum, Indonesia; and (ii) encourage the commitment of beneficiaries to provide compensation to local people who guard and steward sustainability of watershed services.

The mechanism requires the commitment of beneficiaries and those involved in managing the watershed protection services to compensate upland farmers who maintain land use by guardianship and stewardship of the Citarum watershed area. Thus, money collected from watershed services is intended to be used for the sustainable management of these watershed services.

Promoting Effective Water Management Policies and Practices

ADB's support to the Gender and Water Network (GWANET) in Central Asia, financed by the Water Fund and implemented within the framework of Promoting Effective Water Management Policies and Practices Phase Four (38538), was in collaboration with the Scientific Information Center of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination in Central Asia. The main project outputs are increased awareness and understanding of gender issues by water sector stakeholders including relevant NGOs, strengthened capacity of the water sector institutions (including NGOs such as water users' associations) to mainstream gender and development at the decision-making levels, and increased women's participation in planning and implementation in water management.

Gender and Development Cooperation Fund

The Multidonor Gender and Development Cooperation Fund¹² was established in May 2003 as a facility to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in Asia and the Pacific. The fund supports country gender assessments and strategies to guide the formulation of CPSs, project-specific gender action plans for ADB gender-relevant projects, recruitment of long-term gender consultants, gender impact assessments, and promotion of partnerships with women's organizations and other development partners. Since its inception, the fund has supported seven different projects, of which five were ongoing in 2008.

¹² www.adb.org/gender/gad-fund.asp

Box 5: Civil Society Organization Sourcebook

In 2008, ADB published *Civil Society Organization Sourcebook: A Staff Guide to Cooperation with Civil Society Organizations*, which was developed to enhance staff understanding of why and how ADB collaborates with civil society organizations (CSOs), and to provide guidance on how to cooperate with CSOs in a wide range of operational contexts. The book provided the basis for the ADB training for NGO anchors (see below). It provides background information on CSOs, examples of CSO–ADB collaboration, practical tips, and answers to frequently asked questions. In short, the CSO Sourcebook is a valuable resource tool for ADB staff and partners with questions on how to cooperate with CSOs to achieve better results.

This staff guide also complements the NGOC's *Staff Guide to Consultation and Participation*,¹³ a handbook which provides practical tools and tips to make participation more accessible and effective in improving ADB operations. It also helps staff fulfill ADB strategic objectives to consult or otherwise promote participation.

¹³ www.adb.org/participation/toolkit-staff-guide.asp.

In 2007–2008, the international NGO Mercy Corps implemented two subprojects in Mongolia under the regional technical assistance, Promoting Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (37402), supported through the fund. The first subproject, Gender in Agriculture and Rural Development, targets rural women entrepreneurs and aims to (i) improve their business and technical skills and knowledge of agricultural market including supply chains; (ii) establish and promote their relations with business service providers; (iii) improve working conditions including better understanding and support from local administration, civil society, and the community; and (iv) improve awareness of gender equality of the women and the community. In accomplishing these objectives, Mercy Corps has been working closely with local NGOs in four target provinces of Mongolia.

The second subproject, Enacting the Law on Gender Equality, implemented by the government agency on gender equality of Mongolia, has

successfully mobilized national stakeholders, i.e., CSOs working on women's and gender issues in the drafting process. The bill contains comprehensive provisions on (i) efficient and appropriate assurance of the de jure and the de facto equality of men and women; (ii) strengthening of the state obligations to prevent and prohibit the gender discrimination, including gender-based discrimination and violence and sexual harassment; and (iii) changing the culture of direct and indirect discrimination in the political, economic, social, and family lives. The project used gender mainstreaming in the bill drafting and legislative advocacy. The draft law was endorsed by the Cabinet and submitted to the Parliament of Mongolia for its 2009 fall session. National NGOs and research organizations contributed substantially to the content and wording of the clauses of the law and are serving as movers and shakers as well as technical resources in the legislative advocacy in the government and the public of Mongolia.

In 2008, the Multidonor Gender and Development Cooperation Fund cofinanced one component of a large ADB loan/grant project, Credit for Better Health Care (41664). In the Enhancing Midwives Entrepreneurial and Financial Literacy project, the Development Bank of the Philippines will fund a national health NGO to lead activities in community health, training, and legal matters. The project will address low and inefficient public expenditures in health care by mobilizing additional off-budget credit for pro-poor investment through a government financial intermediary, leveraging private participation, and improving allocation toward investment priorities. These priorities include (i) maternal and child health services, (ii) control of communicable diseases, (iii) services to improve access to basic health care, and (iv) referral services including laboratory and other diagnostic services.

The fund supported the Promoting Rural Women's Entrepreneurship in Transition Economies project (40308). The project started in June 2008 and will be completed after 2 years. The impact of this regional TA project will be enhanced rural women's economic empowerment in three central Asian countries: the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. One main project output is strengthening of women's associations, women's self-help groups, NGOs, and networks through social mobilization; intensive capacity development activities; and technical and financial support in agribusiness processing in selected project areas.

Box 6: From the Ground Up¹⁴

Numerous studies have shown that the participation of beneficiaries in development projects improves the effectiveness, relevance, and sustainability of those projects. To illustrate the impact of participatory development, ADB has collected stories from eight projects across a range of sectors and countries and compiled them into the publication, *From the Ground Up*. The case studies include:

- **People's Republic of China:** Tapping a new well, where the government funds local NGOs to implement community projects
- **India:** Self-help in the slums, focusing on issues including domestic violence, child labor, and underage marriage
- **Indonesia:** Harvesting new ideas which enables poor farmers, with the help of local government and NGOs, take charge of village improvement projects
- **Mongolia:** Fruits of resilience describes ADB-funded support to a disabled group who helped alter public attitudes, as well as increase the income-earning potential of the disabled

- **Papua New Guinea:** Restoring the reef, a story of how two dozen shoreline villages are taking action to protect their marine resources
- **Sri Lanka:** cash up front, please, reports on how an ADB-supported rural water project took community involvement one step further
- **Tajikistan:** rebuilding broken lives tells of a pilot microcredit-based livelihood project for women and farmers
- **Viet Nam:** fighting for the forest, about a partnership to partnered to save one of mainland Southeast Asia's most diverse rainforests in Viet Nam's Central Annamites

They reveal some of the challenges of pursuing a participatory approach, as well as the liberating and empowering results achieved when such challenges can be overcome through the commitment of concerned parties, including dedicated individuals, communities, CSOs, governments at various levels, and international financial institutions. *From the Ground Up* was launched in 2008.

¹⁴ ADB. 2008. *From the Ground Up: Stories of Community Empowerment*. Manila. www.adb.org/Documents/Books/Ground-Up-Community-Empowerment/Ground-Up-Community-Empowerment.pdf?bcsi_scan_D4A612CF62FE9576=LgFD9YWePCwR1quf7u wdTAQAAAbcfUB&bcsi_scan_filename=Ground-Up-Community-Empowerment.pdf.

B. Conducting Training and Building Capacity

1. Developing ADB's Capacity for Cooperation with Civil Society Organizations

Training for Nongovernment Organizations/ Civil Society Anchors

ADB maintains an internal network of NGO/civil society anchors across the organization at both its headquarters and its resident missions and representative offices. The anchors serve as the frontline representatives of the institution for in-country interaction with CSOs. In August 2008, the NGO and Civil Society Center conducted a second training course for NGO and civil society anchors to enhance their capacity to engage civil society in ADB activities. The course provided participants an opportunity to share knowledge on the different approaches taken by field offices in cooperating with civil society. Participants learned about tools to address common questions and challenges in CSO engagement, including identifying potential

CSO collaborators, interacting with key CSOs, and cooperating with CSOs in difficult contexts. Following the training, regular communication and knowledge sharing continues with many anchors in accordance with the needs and issues of the country.

Staff Training on Consultation and Participation in the CPS Process

Using the *Staff Guide to Consultation and Participation* as basis, the staff training on consultation and participation in the CPS process taught staff how to fulfill the consultation and participation-related requirements of the new results-based CPS guidelines. The workshop provided participants with an understanding of how to conduct stakeholder analysis, develop a consultation and participation plan, select appropriate consultation and participation tools and methods, and carry out adequate consultation during CPS processes.

Integrating Civil Society Knowledge into ADB Operations

In 2008, NGOC published 12 editions of *CSO Web Review*, a monthly internal electronic bulletin featuring policy positions and activities of a sampling of CSOs active in Asia and the Pacific.

ADB participated in the International NGO Training and Research Center (INTRAC) conference “What Ever Happened to Civil Society¹⁵” that representatives of more than 120 CSOs, bilateral and UN organizations attended. During the conference participants learned about ADB cooperation with NGOs in Asia and the Pacific and saw a project presentation on ADB’s experiences with civil society in the PRC. The participants shared experiences about civil society’s transformation over the last few years, the new challenges it faces, and the direction it should take to promote equality, human rights, aid effectiveness and good governance.

ADB also joined the Annual Meeting of CSO Focal Points at Inter-governmental Organizations (IGOs) in September 2008. The discussions included challenges IGOs sometimes face in collaborating with CSOs and the changing opportunities that are created. Participants gave examples of a range of types of innovative engagement with CSOs and NGO coalitions that lobby IGOs. Civil society representatives from networks and international NGOs addressed challenges they face in working with IGOs. The meeting demonstrated how more thought is being placed on how to shape consultation processes to bring forth the views of the most marginalized and how this translates into organizations displaying a commitment to accountability.

The NGOC regularly organizes discussions and brownbag seminars on timely development issues that feature resource persons from CSOs and development actors. The International Forum for Rural Transport and Development presented information on rural transport and how transport is directly linked to reaching the Millennium Development Goals. SGS,¹⁶ an insurance company, presented its new NGO benchmarking system to provide an independent assessment of NGOs’ conformity level with internationally recognized best practices. A third brown bag disseminated information about the outcomes of the INTRAC workshop, *What Ever Happened to Civil Society*,

which included a review of the changes that civil society has undergone over the last few years.

The global Transport Knowledge Partnership (gTKP), a program supported by the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development, sponsored a regional workshop entitled *Mobilizing Civil Society to Improve Governance in Transport*. The workshop, hosted by ADB, reviewed examples of governance case studies and refined plans to capture further case studies, discussed the progress of developing a booklet about road infrastructure for road stakeholders, and developed recommendations for other educational materials to assist civil society. NGOs focused on the road sector and road sector professionals from ADB member countries. Representatives from interested international agencies participated in the 3-day workshop.

Country Director’s Forum

The NGOC presented information about ADB’s work with civil society at the ADB Country Director’s Forum in December 2008. During the presentation, the head of the NGOC highlighted several examples of successful collaboration through the ADB field offices. Examples included development of a successful consultation and participation plan in Sri Lanka; implementation of a tripartite action plan in Nepal; regular e-group meetings in Indonesia; and in the PRC, assisting the government identify new models for civil society in anti-poverty efforts.

2. Building Nongovernment Organization Capacity and Providing Institutional Support

Although ADB completed the majority of its planned activities for building NGO capacity in the first 2 years of its 2006–2008 work plan, 2008 included less formal activities in this area. For example, ADB provided training to NGOs and other local partners through its resident missions in a range of situations. ADB trained NGOs on its Public Communications Policy and disclosure issues in Nepal and the Philippines.

The Office of the Compliance Review Panel (OCRP) of ADB’s Accountability Mechanism also worked closely with NGOs during 2008. With support from the OCRP, the Compliance

¹⁵ December 2008, Amsterdam. For more information, see www.intrac.org/pages/cseventmain08.html.

¹⁶ www.sgs.com

Review Panel (CRP) undertook a wide program of both external outreach, which included regular interaction with both CSOs and NGOs, and interaction with ADB staff on the role and functions of CRP. Disseminating information on compliance review as a critical function of ADB's Accountability Mechanism continued to be one of CRP's priority activities. In 2008, ADB led public outreach activities in Azerbaijan, Canada, India, Kazakhstan, the United States, and Uzbekistan. The outreach mission in India included four sessions attended by over 60 participants from the government, the private sector, and NGOs. The Central Asia outreach mission was attended by over 110 participants, mostly staff from government and from NGOs. In addition, presentations were held in Washington and in Ottawa; each was attended by staff from other partner organizations, development institutes, research centers, and NGOs.

To maintain contact with various networks, CRP members and OCRP staff had several formal and informal meetings with groups including the Bank Information Center and other NGOs in Asia and the Pacific in 2008.

Improving Stakeholder Understanding of ADB Operations

ADB published several concise information briefs in 2008 to help CSOs and other stakeholders better understand ADB–CSO collaboration, as well as ADB operations and work in particular sector and thematic areas. ADB published (i) four civil society briefs¹⁷ (Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, the Philippines, and Turkmenistan) that gave an overview of civil society in these countries and opportunities for moving forward; and (ii) three In Brief issues¹⁸—ADB and Civil Society, Participatory Development, and Core Labor Standards—that discussed each issue from the ADB lens, illustrating the importance of each theme across ADB's work.

ADB participated in two workshops in June 2008 which offered ADB the opportunity to contribute ADB perspectives on collaboration. The first one was a 3-day workshop organized to seek CSO perspectives on the World Bank's East Asia Pacific Regional Strategy and on collaboration with the development bank generally. The second was a 1-day joint initiative of the ASEAN Secretariat and the World Bank aimed at seeking government, World Bank, and CSO views on ASEAN collaboration with CSOs.

¹⁷ www.adb.org/Documents/Reports/Civil-Society-Briefs/

¹⁸ www.adb.org/Documents/Brochures/InBriefs/

3. Strengthening Government–Civil Society Cooperation and Collaboration

Government–CSO–Private Sector Collaboration for Better Public Services

The loan, Municipal Services Development project (41198), brings a range of stakeholders in Georgia together. The loan supports the Government of Georgia's Municipal Development Fund, in which participating municipal governments, private sector and/or utilities companies, communities, and CSOs, including CBOs, will work together to increase the effectiveness of municipal governments in the identification, planning, delivery, and cost recovery of municipal infrastructure and utility services. The types of projects to be implemented will include rehabilitation of water supply and sewerage, development of solid waste management systems, rehabilitation of municipal roads, and improvement of municipal transportation. CSOs are likely to be key partners for the municipal governments in achieving changes in behavior through community mobilization, awareness raising, and technical training.

Mainstreaming NGOs in Government Poverty Programs

Representatives from ADB's Beijing office spoke at the Policy Forum on Mainstreaming NGOs in Government Poverty Programs in September 2008. The presentation described the nearly complete TA project NGO–Government Partnerships for Village-Level Poverty Alleviation (38234) and its impact. The focus of discussions was a pilot test recently completed in three poor counties in Jiangxi Province. The initiative marks the first time in the PRC that budgetary funds have been channeled to competitively selected NGOs to work under the government's flagship grassroots-level poverty reduction program. ADB believes that NGOs working closely with local government within PRC's poverty program has led to a deepening of participation by the hardest to reach: the poor, women, and other vulnerable groups. Moreover, NGO–government partnerships have raised the transparency, efficiency, and equity of state resources for poverty reduction.

Joining Support for Transparent Procurement

The Development Policy Support Program – Subprogram 2 (40538) is a \$250 million loan

to the Philippines to build on reforms initiated under subprogram 1 for fiscal consolidation and strengthening of governance in public expenditure management and procurement. As part of the project design process, ADB led extensive consultations with a wide range of stakeholders, including private sector, civil society groups, and development partners. Subprogram 2 broadens the reform program in the four core areas to (i) improve fiscal sustainability, maintain macroeconomic stability, and improve creditworthiness; (ii) enhance governance in public expenditure management; (iii) improve the investment climate, rural development, and infrastructure; and (iv) reduce poverty and increase social inclusion. It sets the groundwork for a more substantial agenda on these themes.

The Government of the Philippines issued an executive order to create a procurement transparency group to promote public monitoring and enhance transparency of the public procurement system, as mandated under the procurement law. The group comprises representatives from government procurement policy board, key procurement agencies, and six CSOs nominated by a CSO Forum, a voluntary gathering of major CSOs. The six CSOs are the Bishops–Businessmen Conference, Makati Business Club, Transparency and Accountability Network, Ateneo Government Watch, Confederation of Filipino Consultants, and Procurement Watch. The procurement transparency group will be operationalized under subprogram 3 and will start with tracking procurement of selected infrastructure projects from the time the bid notice is posted to selection of the winning bid.

Collaborating to Promote Social Development

The technical assistance Sindh Basic Urban Services (37220) will help the Government of Pakistan prepare a flexible program focused on providing incentives for sustainable service delivery. The expanded scope of the project preparatory technical assistance will include, among others, (i) preparation of an urban sector development road map, including institutional and policy reforms to address core issue of urban services delivery systems; (ii) assessment of options for public–private partnerships and other alternative urban service delivery mechanisms; and (iii) preparation of a 10-year investment program (comprising physical and nonphysical investments) suitable for financing by ADB, including subproject preparation and

associated safeguards work, and determination of institutional and implementation arrangements. Recent workshops with stakeholders held in January 2008 followed smaller focus group meetings held in 2007. Further workshops and meetings with local *taluka* (county) councils took place between March and August 2008. The workshops bring together stakeholders from the public sector and civil society to collaborate on how to address local needs.

C. Generating and Sharing Knowledge

1. Engaging CSOs in Continuing Dialogue

NGO Lobby Day Meetings

ADB’s annual Lobby Day meetings to discuss issues of concern to NGOs have been part of ADB’s deepening dialogue with a range of advocacy NGOs working across Asia and the Pacific. It is a day dedicated to NGOs for lobbying ADB about their concerns and issues. Lobby Day includes a series of discussions with members of the NGO Forum on ADB (the Forum). The Forum is an Asian-led network of NGOs and CBOs that support each other to amplify their positions on ADB policies, programs, and projects affecting resources and local communities. On Lobby Day 2008, held on 26 March, 53 participants from nearly 50 organizations joined ADB staff for a range of talks. Discussions covered, among other topics, a variety of ADB’s projects—reducing corruption, how the NGOC works, ADB’s Integrated Citarum Water Resources Management Investment Program, ADB in Armenia, and the Safeguard Policy Update.

Consultations on Land Issues

ADB–CSO dialogue on land issues provided ADB staff the opportunity to listen to civil society perspectives on access to land and food security issues. NGO representatives from the six countries under Land Watch Asia presented the results of their country studies to ADB, describing issues and challenges to land access in their respective countries and suggested modes of engagement with ADB on such issues.

The Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC) also reported the findings of the initial scoping study on ADB’s policies with impact on access to land. Four recommendations were put forward to ADB. ADB welcomed the analysis and views presented by NGO participants at the dialogue, and looks forward

to further discussions with Land Watch Asia and ANGO on issues related to the needs of poor people living in rural areas.

2008 Annual Meeting in Spain

The 41st Annual Meeting of the ADB's Board of Governors was held at Madrid Fair Institution (IFEMA)¹⁹ in Madrid, Spain, on 3–6 May 2008. Eighty-six CSO representatives—a record for an annual meeting outside of Asia—participated in the meeting, which included a dedicated CSO agenda.

This year's civil society program featured five events, including the traditional meeting with the President, an open exchange with four senior staff in accountability-related positions,²⁰ and three panel discussions.

The three major panel discussions covered the following topics:

- **Exploring Best Practices to Mainstream Core Labor Standards.** Launched in 2006, the *ADB Core Labor Standards Handbook* informs ADB staff of the four core labor standards and their application to ADB operations. These standards are a set of four internationally recognized basic rights and principles at work aimed at ensuring workers' rights to trade union organization and collective bargaining, freedom from discrimination in the workplace, and the elimination of child labor and forced labor. Initial poverty and social assessments of ADB-financed projects are required to take into account labor impacts. In this panel discussion, representatives of public sector workers, the International Labor Organization, NGO Forum on ADB, and ADB explored how the core labor standards could be more effectively mainstreamed in ADB operations.
- **Safeguards Protect the Poor – Why ADB Must Retain and Strengthen Its Mandatory Safeguard Policies.** The objective of this panel organized by Oxfam Australia was to provide a space for exchange between different stakeholders on the key issues around the Safeguard Policy Update. The speakers presented their views on the ongoing Safeguard Policy Update process. Key questions included

Box 7: Public–Private–Community Planning in Thailand

The TA project, Planning for the Sustainable Development of Southern Thailand (40549), will develop a road map for the National Economic and Social Development Board for the 14 provinces comprising southern Thailand. The public consultation workshops have been focal points for public–private and community cooperation on developing the road map.

Over 180 participants from all three sectors actively joined one of three subregional workshops to help determine the future priorities for the government in the area. In addition, the participants joined in a survey at the three workshops to share their feelings about participating in a collaborative meeting such as this. The results showed the positive feelings participants have about working with a diverse group of interests. The outcomes formed the basis of the Public Consultation Report that was published in August 2008.

how safeguards policies can be developed so that they provide clarity for implementation while protecting the needs of affected people.

- **Promoting Real Alternatives. Long-Term Energy Imperatives in Asia and ADB.** The climate crisis has forced a fundamental rethink regarding energy-related development pathways, models, and regional strategies. As an institution attempting to reshape its long-term relevance in the region, ADB may need to fundamentally change the directions that its energy-driven operations have taken thus far, especially in light of the still growing commercial potential of sustainable energy-anchored development. This panel discussed what needs to be done, how, and by when.

Dialogue with Labor Organizations

In 2008, ADB met with Public Services International (PSI) twice for in-depth consultations about labor issues. In the first meeting in April 2008, ADB

¹⁹ Institución Ferial de Madrid.

²⁰ Auditor General; Director General, Operations Evaluation Department; Secretary, Compliance Review Board; and Special Project Facilitator, Office of the Special Project.

and PSI used the day-long meeting to discuss opportunities for collaboration in a range of ADB projects.

At a second meeting in December 2008, ADB and PSI discussed the PSI presentation on findings from their research in India, PSI and ADB's work related to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) and ADB's Public Communication Policy. ADB encourages PSI to track the development of ADB projects and to share views early in the project processing cycle when it is more feasible to address particular labor concerns. ADB has also agreed to regular meetings with PSI and other global unions in the coming years.

Consultations in Policy Dialogue

During the year, ADB sought the views of many CSOs on important ADB policies and strategies.

Safeguards Policy Update

During 2008 ADB reviewed its Safeguards Policy. The update period started in 2005 and included an independent assessment of ADB's environmental and social safeguards by the Operations Evaluation Department in 2006–2007. During the update process, ADB committed itself to a comprehensive and transparent consultation process that included 14 country and subregional workshops in 2007–2008. Between January and April 2008, ADB consulted stakeholders, including CSOs, at 10 events around the world. ADB facilitated meetings in New Delhi, Sydney, Jakarta, Beijing, Ha Noi, Islamabad, Washington, Quebec, Frankfurt, and Tokyo. These workshops provide ADB's various stakeholders in government, the private sector, academe, affected people, and civil society, as well as other multilateral financial institutions and development agencies, an opportunity to clarify and comment on the Consultation Draft of the Safeguard Policy Statement. ADB also led a series of consultation workshops in Manila in November 2008. ADB compiled all comments, written submissions, and draft policy documents and posted them on its website. ADB included NGO comments and written submissions in finalizing the policy.

Drive Against Corruption

The Integrity Division, Office of the Auditor General (OAGI) is ADB's focal point for receiving and conducting investigations of allegations of fraud and corruption in ADB-financed activities. A key part of OAGI's holistic strategy in fighting corruption is to work closely with all stakeholders, external and

Box 8: Addressing Aid Effectiveness

In July, ADB addressed the Reality of Aid conference in Manila which examined issues and concerns surrounding development finance and aid effectiveness reforms. In particular, ADB's presentation focused on ADB's aid effectiveness reforms and ADB's promotion of aid effectiveness to partners, CSOs, and other donors. ADB discussed how ADB implements and promotes aid effectiveness to stakeholders including partners, donors, and CSOs.

internal. OAGI receives 55% of its complaints from external stakeholders, of whom civil society groups comprise a large component.

In 2008, OAGI expended significant efforts on outreach and communication to ensure that ADB's zero-tolerance policy to fraud and corruption is firmly understood by all. Translations of ADB's Anticorruption Policy and Integrity Principles and Guidelines have been published in many languages, and OAGI's external website, revamped in 2007, is regularly and comprehensively updated and provides a valuable resource to stakeholders, including civil society groups. In its efforts at greater transparency, reports and findings from OAGI's proactive project procurement-related audits are now posted on the internet. Recognizing the importance of protecting whistleblowers, OAGI in 2008 developed draft whistleblower provisions for internal comments.

ADB spoke at a conference in Thailand in May on Enhancing Citizen Participation in Public Governance. The conference, co-hosted by the Organization for European Cooperation and Development's (OECD) Asian Center for Public Governance and the Thai Office of the Public Sector Development Commission, was organized to identify ways to enhance citizen participation in policy making, budgeting, regional development, and e-government. ADB shared the example in the PRC of an ADB-assisted project where the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development launched a project where local NGOs and local governments work together. Together with villagers, local NGOs and governments carry out improvement plans, including piped-water schemes, a sealed reservoir, and orange growing.

Governments in Asia and the Pacific resolved to cooperate in the fight against corruption as early as 1999, when they launched the Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia-Pacific under the joint leadership of the ADB and the OECD. The international NGO Transparency International is a member of the advisory committee along with multiple donor organizations. Transparency International joined the Anti-Corruption Initiatives' two steering committee meetings in 2008, in May and November, and in the second meeting, It chaired a session during the accompanying capacity building event. It also presented information on the importance of civil society in the prevention of corruption, how anticorruption agencies can engage with civil society, and how civil society can mainstream ethics and/or anticorruption into its own business processes.

Outreach and Training on Complaints Mechanism

The Special Projects Facilitator met with NGO Forum on ADB representatives during the 2008 NGO Lobby Day, and at their request, the Office of the Special Projects Facilitator (OSPF) oriented 11 NGO Forum interns in 2008. The interns came from various organizations in Azerbaijan, Indonesia, the Kyrgyz Republic, Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Myanmar.

In conjunction with consultations on the safeguard policy update, an ADB mission briefed the Japan Center for Sustainable Environment and Friends of the Earth on OSPF reflections on its work over the last 4 years. The mission encouraged these NGOs to communicate directly with OSPF if they have questions or concerns. In addition, the mission briefed the Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation (JANIC) about the accountability mechanism. JANIC, a network of 78 NGOs, expressed its readiness to disseminate information about OSPF to its members. Finally, the mission met with the Ministry of Finance, which welcomed the information that NGOs could communicate directly with the OSPF.

Country Dialogue and Partnerships with Civil Society

An important dimension of ADB's work with civil society involves country partnerships. This section highlights examples of country and subregional dialogue between ADB and CSOs.

The NGOC presented information about ADB's experience in working with CSOs to the Mekong River Commission (MRC) and was part of the MRC's consultation on stakeholder engagement. The MRC

seeks to improve the way in which it engages with stakeholders through its programs and governance. The purpose of the regional consultation was to solicit inputs on principles and policy for MRC stakeholders at the governance level and on one of its stakeholder and communication plans. The 80 participants included representatives of National Mekong Committees, national and international NGOs, research institutes, universities, development agencies, and hydropower companies.

As part of ADB's Cooperation Fund for Fighting HIV/AIDS in Asia and the Pacific project (40104), ADB visited a project site in Bohol, the Philippines. During the visit, ADB met with NGO representatives, local health office staff, municipal officials, and peer educators. Based on their discussions, the project team decided to add additional awareness-raising sessions for the community, a public campaign on HIV/AIDS, and new advocacy campaigns through hotels and resorts. PATH Foundation, the NGO implementing the project, has mobilized a range of partners, including government, community groups, and other NGOs, and has thus increased the sustainability of the project's impacts.

ADB launched the Afghanistan Pilot Participatory Poverty Assessment in both Washington, DC and Ottawa. In Canada, ADB collaborated with World Vision and organized a reception and photo exhibition for Members of Parliament and leading Canadian NGOs, including Oxfam and CARE. A follow-on roundtable discussion included participants from CIDA, leading NGOs, academia, and senior diplomats from the Embassy of Afghanistan. In Washington, DC, ADB supported Oxfam in organizing a photo exhibition and panel discussion in the US Congress, covering policy options for accelerating poverty reduction in Afghanistan.

ADB headquarters regularly receives visits from CSO representatives to request information about ADB operations, exchange views on international development topics, or seek opportunities to collaborate with ADB in some way. Below is a list of a few organizations that sent representatives to meet with ADB staff in 2008.

- **IFRTD.** The International Forum for Rural Transport and Development (IFRTD) is a global network of individuals and organizations working together towards improved access, mobility and economic opportunity for poor communities in developing countries. At the heart of IFRTD is a

clear understanding of the sort of world it would like to see, how it can work towards that goal and the values it abides by.

- **ANGOC.** ANGOC is a regional association of national and institutional NGO networks engaged in food security, agrarian reform, sustainable agriculture, participatory governance, and rural development initiatives. Its members and partners come from more than 12 Asian countries.
- **BIC USA.** The Bank Information Center (BIC) is an independent, nonprofit NGO that advocates for the protection of rights, participation, transparency, and public accountability in the governance and operations of the World Bank, regional development banks, and the International Monetary Fund. BIC partners with civil society in developing and transition countries to influence the World Bank and other international financial institutions, including ADB, to promote social and economic justice and ecological sustainability.
- **Grameen Bank.** The Grameen Bank is a microfinance organization and community development bank started in Bangladesh that makes small loans to the impoverished without requiring collateral. The system of this bank is based on the idea that the poor have skills that are underutilized. Another distinctive feature of the bank's credit program is that a significant majority of its borrowers are women.
- **Codespa.** Codespa Foundation is a nonprofit organization helping poor people and communities in the developing countries of Asia, Africa, and the Americas. Founded in 1985 and based in Spain, Codespa Foundation promotes development programs. Codespa target areas in Asia are the Philippines and Viet Nam.
- **Transparency International.** Transparency International, the global CSO leading the fight against corruption, brings people together in a powerful worldwide coalition to end the devastating impact of corruption on men, women, and children around the world. Its mission is to create change toward a world free of corruption. Transparency International raises awareness and diminishes apathy and tolerance of corruption, and devises and implements practical actions to address it.

2. Enhancing Interaction Through Communication:

Public Communications Policy

ADB conducted awareness-raising seminars on its Public Communications Policy²¹ (PCP) for about 100 development partners, including CSOs. Updated information, including an information packet for DMC officials and CSOs, continues to be made available to raise awareness on the PCP. This packet is available both on the website and at ADB's regional missions, together with a copy of the PCP, in 12 languages.

In 2008, ADB's InfoUnit conducted briefings for 50 representatives of CSOs, including labor groups, to inform them of their right of access to information and update them on the status of PCP implementation. ADB also briefed 58 DMC officials to raise awareness on ADB disclosure rules and improve communications about ADB activities with in-country stakeholders, including project-affected people.

A total of 1,072 external requests for information and documents related to ADB's operations were tracked through disclosure@adb.org and processed by the InfoUnit and ADB field offices during the review period. Of these, approximately 50 requests were about ADB-NGO collaboration.

Communication with Civil Society

The NGOC maintains a website (www.adb.org/ngos) dedicated to ADB's collaboration with CSOs. The regularly updated site explains how CSOs can collaborate with ADB, and contains annual reports of cooperation with CSOs, studies, articles, policies, speeches, and other documents.

NGOC's webpages are consistently among the most visited on ADB's website, based on number of visits. During the year, more than 60,000 CSO-related documents were downloaded from the ADB website.

Another NGOC-managed ADB website, www.adb.org/Participation/default.asp, provides resources on consultation and participation. This website features tools, case studies, templates, articles, reports, and other reference materials on community-driven development and consultation participation.

²¹ www.adb.org/Documents/Policies/PCP/PCP-R-Paper.pdf

In 2008, ADB published six issues of the *Partnership Newsletter*,²² an electronic bulletin developed to keep CSOs informed of activities in and around ADB. The bimonthly bulletin, which has a subscriber base exceeding 1,200, informs recipients of ADB policy developments, consultations, projects, conferences, publications, and educational and training opportunities provided to CSOs by other organizations.

The NGOC facilitates CSO access to ADB through a dedicated e-mail account, ngocoordinator@adb.org, which receives an average of at least 2,000 messages annually.

3. Partnerships with Conservation Organizations

WWF–ADB Consultations

A July 2008 consultation meeting on the ADB–WWF partnership, the fifth such meeting, was held to (i) review current areas of collaboration and mutual interests, and (ii) discuss potential areas for further joint ADB–WWF undertakings. ADB and WWF gave presentations on their respective programs and initiatives to highlight current work and progress with the partnership and to explore possible further collaboration in areas of mutual interest. Discussions on future collaborative activities included the Coral Triangle Initiative, Heart of Borneo Initiative, WWF China Program and ADB links, energy efficiency and climate change, and ADB Safeguard Policy Update. As the meeting concluded, both recognized that the ADB–WWF partnership is flourishing and maturing, though there is still more to achieve with deepening collaboration on the existing and evolving joint undertakings.

ADB also consulted WWF in the design of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region Environment Improvement Project – Phase II (40634). WWF contributed substantive inputs on safeguards-related issues in project preparation in several countries.

ADB provided a \$1.5 million grant for WWF environmentalists to work with Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines to draw up a plan to protect the regions' seas and rainforests which are being damaged at an alarming rate. The four countries will each contribute \$50,000 of in-kind support to complete the required funding for the program. The ADB grant will provide funding for WWF to undertake an environmental and socioeconomic profile of the region, geographic information systems mapping and stakeholder consultations in the four countries that would lead to a development of a long-term program to establish regional environmental management policies and strategies to strengthen the sustainable management of natural resources. The program will then work with the four governments, donors, the private sector, and NGOs to foster support for the program and forge partnerships for action.

ADB–IUCN Cooperation

During the past decade, IUCN and ADB have collaborated on a number of programs and projects. The scope of these activities has ranged from conferences, publications, and capacity building exercises to regional technical assistance. The cooperation between ADB and IUCN has largely been grounded on IUCN's participation and access to conservation technologies in various environmental fields as well as its knowledge of country-specific environmental conservation issues. In 2008, IUCN has supported ADB in safeguards related issues and clean air initiatives.

²² www.adb.org/Documents/Periodicals/NGO_Newsletters/default.asp?p=ngopubrs

PART III: DIRECTIONS IN ADB-CIVIL SOCIETY COOPERATION

In 2009, ADB will create new relationships, and continue building up those that it has with CSOs and ensure that the partnerships continue to translate into meaningful support of ADB's progress toward its goal of an Asia and Pacific free of poverty. The NGOC will review its work over the past 10 years and look for lessons to help guide the development of a new work plan for ADB's cooperation with civil society.

ADB expects that the number of loans and technical assistance initiatives that include civil society engagement will expand both quantitatively and qualitatively in the coming years. Several loans will give CSOs a particularly large role, such as a capacity building development for CSOs in the Pacific project. NGOs will continue to join forces with CSOs in the field, such as in Timor-Leste where CARE International and ADB will partner on a road project. ADB will also involve civil society groups when it supports technical assistance, such as in India where ADB is planning to support farmer's groups and water users associations by empowering them through training in various water management interventions while local NGOs concurrently provide agricultural production support services to the farmers. Other funds, such as the Pilot and Demonstration Activities for water projects and the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction, will support NGOs directly to implement development projects that complement ongoing ADB-funded work. ADB will continue to work with its existing conservation CSO partners, WWF and IUCN, on a range of projects, including the Coral Triangle Initiative.

ADB will continue its interactive dialogue with CSOs. ADB will seek contributions from interested CSOs on its new and existing policies. ADB will develop its new Whistleblower Policy, and the Safeguard Policy Update discussions will continue. Plans for consultations with civil society in every ADB member country about the review of its Public Communications Policy will also start in 2009. In addition to collaborating on policies, CSOs will continue to contribute to ADB's CPSs. In 2009, Nepal, Vanuatu, and the Pacific will all begin preparations for their new strategies with key stakeholders in their respective countries.

In January, ADB will host Social Development Learning Week, a week focused on learning the social dimensions of ADB operations and recognizing that certain social groups need special attention to ensure that they are included in the development process. ADB's 42nd Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors will be held in Bali, Indonesia, in May 2009, and ADB anticipates a record number of civil society participants to help design and facilitate discussions and meetings on the dedicated civil society agenda and linking civil society representatives with senior members of ADB's management. Through these and other events, ADB expects its relationships with civil society will continue to expand and deepen, and enable ADB to more effectively achieve its vision of a poverty-free Asia and the Pacific.

About the Asian Development Bank

ADB's vision is an Asia and Pacific region free of poverty. Its mission is to help its developing member countries substantially reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of their people. Despite the region's many successes, it remains home to two-thirds of the world's poor: 1.8 billion people who live on less than \$2 a day, with 903 million struggling on less than \$1.25 a day. ADB is committed to reducing poverty through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration.

Based in Manila, ADB is owned by 67 members, including 48 from the region. Its main instruments for helping its developing member countries are policy dialogue, loans, equity investments, guarantees, grants, and technical assistance.